

INDIAN VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY (IVPL)
Board of Trustees Meeting (BOT)
May 18, 2023

The May BOT Meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Grande at 8:02am.

ATTENDANCE:

Present – Officers- Dr. Alexander Grande, President; Penny Price, Vice President; Wendy Leshinskie, Secretary; Darren Johnson, Treasurer.

Board Members- Steven Boell; Doug Johnson; Suzi Leonard; Bud Leister, Foundation of Friends (FOF) representative; Beth Styer; and Margie Stern, Library Director.

Absent Members- Vivian Herman.

Audience- People from the public

CONSENT AGENDA:

April Meeting **Minutes**. Dr. Grande- No additions or corrections.

Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements- Mr. Darren Johnson. All municipal payments have been received for the first quarter. IVPL's April financial statement indicates about a \$1000 deficit due to quarterly/annual contractual payments, increased costs after Covid, and the reduction in municipal funding.

Director's Report- Ms. Stern. Report highlights and activities update: A "1st Amendment Audit" conducted by a person from outside the supporting communities spent about 2 hours taking photographs and videotaping the IVPL collection. This person became confrontational when refused admittance to videotape a children's program and again when attempting to videotape a person using the public computers.

The director will check library rights under the 1st Amendment. The By-Laws Committee will review IVPL's behavior policy concerning the photographing and videotaping of children while in the library.

Responses to questions raised by some Franconia Supervisors are to be reviewed by the BOT and responses given to the director **by May 25, 2023**.

In an effort to maintain a knowledgeable and informed BOT, Dr. Grande encouraged members to attend free classes and workshops on pertinent topics which are provided by the Pennsylvania State Library's Association.

Monthly Statistics- 2023 statistics show an increase above 2019 pre-Covid numbers in all areas except for adult programs offered and their attendance.

Monthly Report- This month's report highlighted "Library Funding". In further funding discussions it was stated when multiple municipalities fund a library many more services, programs, and a larger collection can be provided at a lower per capita cost. It was suggested that Don Arrowsmith's 2017 chart for per capita costs for each participating municipality be updated and distributed to municipal officials.

Motion was made by Mr. Boell with a second by Mr. Doug Johnson to approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous Approval.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Facilities- Ms. Leonard. A new water heater has been ordered and installation is scheduled for late June. After installation the community room carpet and walls will be cleaned and the McLean Reading Room walls painted. Thanks go to Jim Styer for the installation of the light for the flagpole. Thanks also for all the volunteers helping the Indian Valley Junior Women's Club annual herb sale fundraiser. All the proceeds will go to the FOF. About \$4000 is anticipated to have been made.

Foundation of Friends- Mr. Leister. Staff and Donor Appreciation Events were well received. It is anticipated they will become annual events. Generic business cards are being designed which can be used by anyone by writing his/her name and contact information on the back.

FOF is seeking volunteers to help with the Concert Sundae food and ice cream on June 18 and also donations to defray the food costs so the money does not come from FOF fundraising donations.

Reminders about FOF fundraising events: Dinner In White on August 19, Wine Tasting on Nov 11, and the first planning meeting on May 23 of the 2024 Beer Fest with a new partner, the Souderton-Telford Rotary Club.

Two new potential FOF board members from Souderton and Upper Salford are being considered.

Over \$11,000 has been received from the FOF annual appeal which has just begun.

Personnel- Dr. Grande. No report.

Strategic/Marketing Plan- Mr. Boell. "Talking Points" to address the Franconia Township supervisors' concerns will be available on Google Docs. BOT members are asked to direct comments to the director within the next 7 days.

It was suggested the BOT schedule a work session to discuss library policies and procedures and municipal FAQs so everyone is informed and shares the same information. The director will offer possible dates for this work session.

By-Laws Committee- Mr. Boell. An explanation of BOT member responsibilities was outlined by Mr. Boell including: "Fiduciary Obligation" to be conscientious in using funds properly and wisely; "Duty of Loyalty" to ensure there is no conflict of interest from monetary rewards or gains by exploiting information learned as a board member; "Duty of Care" to being diligent in reviewing and following policies, attending meetings, to keep on learning; "Care of Confidentiality" to keep information (i.e. bids, personnel material) private and safe; "Duty of Obedience" to follow policies and By-Laws and

participate in training opportunities; and “Business Judgment Rule” to rely on experts to make decisions and get clarifications (i.e. solicitors, ALA, the director, accountants...) There was a question about Right to Know vs Sunshine Laws to be explained later. Mr. Boell also mentioned that committee reports could also be passed with a Consent Agenda format.

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Stern. No old business.

NEW BUSINESS: Dr. Grande. The date of the June BOT meeting is changed to **June 22** at 8:00 am. Ms. Leshinskie is not able to attend so someone else will have to take the minutes.

Public comment:

The dozen or so members of the public who attended the meeting expressed their support of the library and its policies. All had an opportunity to address the BOT. One person expressed gratitude for the BOT's relying on experts to create and finalize policies. Another attendee offered his service and expertise for our plumbing needs and has ideas for funding and improving municipal relationships. He will be given the director's and FOF contact information. Another individual offered support and her perspective on the start of the defund the library movement in our area since she has been following and commenting on it since its very beginning.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12a on a motion made by Dr. Grande and seconded by Ms. Styer.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Leshinskie

Next IVPL Board meeting: June 22, 2023 at 8:00 am in the library's Community Room
Next Foundation of Friends: June 14, 2023 at 7:30 am